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Rev. Eber Teter.

The Wesleyan Methodist

"Holiness Unto The Lord"

I. F. McLEISTER, Editor
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Crossing the Bar.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

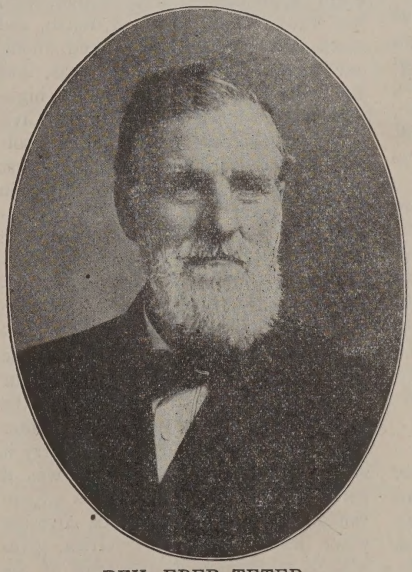
In Memoriam.

BY THE EDITOR.

We are bringing to our readers in this issue tributes to the memory of the man whom we have lovingly called "The Grand Old Man of the Church." This title is not a vain attempt at flattery; it is a tribute spoken while he yet lived, and used because it was so well earned. He was a church man. He lived his life in the church; he loved it, defended it, and served it. He had high ideals for the church and the courage and perseverance to steadily build them into reality. He grew old in its service, and closed his life's work holding the office of President Emeritus of the General Conference. His character was grand, and good, and well balanced. He was "*The Grand Old Man of the Church.*"

He had the faculty of friendship. It is not always to a man's discredit to create enmities in a world where there is such tremendous opposition to all that is good, but Brother Teter's qualities were of such a nature that he formed and held a multitude of friendships throughout life. He was a genial man. He knew how to win without sacrificing his loyalty to righteousness. He carried burdens well. Cares did not rob him of a cheerful heart. He lived well and long and usefully. He had an analytical mind, and a faculty for expression that enabled him to see the vital elements of a matter and state them in language that was informing and that illuminated the subject.

More than sixty years have passed since he entered the Christian ministry. It is greatly to be regretted that he did not see his way clear to write a narrative history of his life and times. The world has moved on a great pace since that time sixty years ago and more, when he began to preach. The story of his life and of the cause he served these years would have been an interesting and profitable one to read.



REV. EBER TETER.

And now he has been called from labor to reward. It might have been said to him as it was to Job: "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season." The Christian warrior is at rest. "On fame's eternal camping ground his silent tent is spread; and glory guards with solemn round the bivouac of the dead." He was a great traveler, but the journeys of his earthly pilgrimage are over; he has crossed the river and rests under the shade of the trees on the other side. The Editor esteems it a privilege to present to all our readers the record of Brother Teter's life, written by his son, and tributes to his memory by several of his brethren in the holiness movement which he loved so well and so ably advocated and defended.

Biography.

By His Son, Prof. George Teter.

Eber Teter, son of Eber and Margaret Teter, was born January 28, 1846, near Boxleytown, Indiana; died June 29, 1928, at the age of eighty-two years, five months, and one day.

The son of pioneers, he spent his boyhood days on the farm, doing his share in creating a home out of the wilderness. As one of a large family, he knew the struggles and hardships of those stirring times; and like so many of those sturdy men and women, he gained power and perserverance from his experiences and laid the foundation of a useful life. From those experiences and from his parents he gained not only physical vigor and a great capacity for work, but also a fine idealism and a strong sense of devotion to duty. To those ideals and to that sense of duty he has ever remained faithful.

His father was a strong believer in the brotherhood of man, and because of a disposition for giving practical application to his belief, was one of a group that started in his community the Wesleyan Methodist Church, which, among other things, stood for the abolition of slavery. Of this church, Eber Teter became a member in early youth, and to this church he devoted his life.

When only a boy he enlisted in the Federal army and did what he could to help preserve the Union. Though a strong believer in peace, he was always glad that he had had the opportunity to serve his country as one of the "Boys of '61."

After returning from the army he soon began preparing for the ministry, attending Wheaton College, Illinois, and Adrian College, Michigan. He entered upon his career as a minister at about the age of twenty-one. His work as a minister is too well known to need telling here. There were successes and failures, defeats and victories, to him Heaven has become a reality,

but always there was a courage joined with a deep sense of duty which refused to accept defeat as final, which stopped at no obstacle, which never let a petty excuse or personal reluctance interfere with the performance of an obligation. He was here on business for his King, and he felt that that business must be done. He believed that he had been called to preach; and, except for a few years spent in business, he was loyal to that call, pressing towards the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus.

Besides in his work as a minister, he served his church as President of the Indiana Conference, President of the General Conference, and General Missionary Secretary of the entire Connection, retiring from active service only when the frailty of his body made active work impossible. Thus his interests became constantly broader, and all over the land he became the counsellor and guide of the men and the women in direct charge of the work of the church. He was particularly interested in the work of foreign missions, in the work among the negroes of the South, and in the church schools for the training of young people for the ministry. To these interests he gave his services freely as long as he had strength to give.

He was twice married, first to Sue Hethrington and then to Elizabeth Howard. He was the father of seven children, Jennie, Maggie, John, Auvie, Mattie, George, and Grace. Of these, two—Jennie Pickett and Grace Williamson—have gone before him to the Home eternal.

His was a glorious life. And those who survive him—his wife, his children, and his numerous grandchildren—cherish remembrances of him not only as a beloved husband and father, but as a constant inspiration. To them, though he is dead, he still lives. To them he has bequeathed the rich legacy of a good name and an unalterable devotion to the call of duty.

FUNERAL SERVICES.

The funeral services of the Rev. Eber Teter were held in the Christian Church (the Wesleyan Church being small) Monday, July 2, at 2 P. M.; the Rev. T. P. Baker having charge of the same, at the request of the deceased.

Rev. W. L. Thompson, President of the Indiana Conference, read the scripture lesson, and Rev. F. R. Eddy, Vice-President, offered prayer. The obituary was written and read by Prof. George Teter, of Milwaukee, son of Rev. E. Teter. The music was furnished by a quartet, composed of Messrs. Harmon, Foulke, Woods and Wilson, with Mrs. Joyce Raquet at the piano, and beautiful selections on the pipe organ by Mrs. Ruby Clark.

Ministers and members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church came in great numbers from all over the Conference, and one of the most impressive parts of the service was the large group of ministers, who sang the hymn "A Charge to Keep I Have."

Rev. T. P. Baker spoke in well chosen words of the intimate association between himself and Rev. E. Teter, and of the great loss the church has sustained in the departure of this good man.

Rev. J. S. Willett, of Syracuse, N. Y. who is President of the Book Committee, and the financial agent of the church, concluded the service with a most wonderful tribute to the departed one.

A Tribute to Brother Eber Teter.

(We were elected by the Executive Board to represent them in an official capacity at the funeral of Brother Teter at Sheridan, Indiana. We have been requested to repeat as nearly as possible some of the things that were said on that occasion. Necessarily it will have to be greatly condensed, and somewhat fragmentary on account of the space.)

Dear Friends: We are called to mourn the loss of a great man, universally loved by the members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, a man who has traveled east, and west, north, and south, and has lived and worked among our people as no other man has, and for whom there is nothing but the highest esteem. As a soldier of the Civil war he merits our respect, but as a soldier in the Lord's army his greatest work was done. When we came in official contact with him over twenty-five years ago, he was occupying the position of Home and Foreign Missionary Secretary. His work in this direction began in 1901, and his effective labors did not close until 1923. During those years we were meeting some of the most trying experiences in our missionary work, and it needed just the type of mind and devotion that Brother Teter was able to bring to it to carry it safely through. But not only was it carried safely through, but the expansion in the missionary efforts, covering other fields than that of Africa, gives a little impression of the fruit of the labor of his hands and heart. We came to know him very intimately, and the more and better we knew him the deeper our appreciation of his great life. He was not only interested in the missionary work, but there was not a solitary phase of our Denominational life that did not receive his constant thought, prayer, and attention; and when we were called to the official position of Publisher and Agent no man stood back of us more loyally and with such wisdom, when it was needed so greatly, as Brother Teter.

We cannot help but reflect on some of the great qualities that he brought to his work. First, he was endowed with a great intellect, a searching, analytical mind, which placed under discipline and culture, made a most marvelous contribution to the literature of the Church. Questions in Theology, conduct, and practice were made plain when handled by his master mind in his noble way. He had great preaching ability, and was able to draw from such a wide and varied experience illustrations and stories of actual life that illuminated the darkest questions. As a student of the Bible he was able to use his knowledge of that Book in a powerful way.

He was a great church builder. To simply start a work and leave it was not his method of work. Permanency was one of the cardinal virtues of his activities and to build so as to make the building stable and capable of progress was his constant thought. Conferences and charges have benefited by this great church builder and are flourishing today.

Brother Teter was nothing if he was not practical. He was strong on theory but stronger on practice, and no matter what the theory might be the practice must measure up every time. He was quick to see a point and also keen in finding the weak points of an opponent's argument. He might not be classified as an emotional man, and yet no heart could feel more deeply, and also be more tender and considerate than that of Brother Teter.

He was a man easy to co-operate with. As he would view the difficulties in the way he would always have some plan or suggestion of handling them, but if his plan and suggestion was not acceptable to the brethren, no man yielded more gracefully and tactfully and in a more beautiful Christian spirit than did Brother Teter, and his plan could be laid aside, no matter how much thought he had given to it, with the best of grace and adopt somebody else's plan, if that was thought best, and work for it as hard as anyone could. He never considered his word the final word, and his mind was always open for suggestions. Many a time have we seen in our Board meetings tense situations develop when great problems have confronted the brethren and when it seemed there was no way out, this man of God would quietly arise, say a few words, tell a little simple story, and the atmosphere would clear, light would break in, and conditions quickly change. He brought a great heart to his work as well as a great mind. He made a contribution not only to the Indiana Conference, of which he was President for a number of years, but a still greater contribution to the Church at large.

A man of deep piety, deep spiritual life, Christ lived in him, and for him to live was Christ, and to die was gain.

Consecration was a word that he used frequently, but with deep significance

Brother Teter in the Midst of His Brethren—Members of the Book Committee of 1911-1915.
Standing: Rev. J. R. Babcock, L. H. McMillen, Joe Lawrence, Rev. S. A. Manwell, G. W. Teter, M. D., Prof. J. M. Hancock.
Sitting: Prof. J. O. Baker, Rev. F. A. Butterfield, Rev. J. S. Willett, Rev. E. Teter, E. G. Dietrich, Rev. E. D. Carpenter, Prof. H. W. McDowell.

for it carried all, his time, his gifts, his money—all was on the altar, and he never requested of others what he was not willing to give himself.

He was a man of profound convictions, and when he came to apprehend the realities of life illuminated by the realities of the Divine truth it was in no negative mood, but with a fervent spirit that made them his own. His espousal of the doctrines and reforms of the Wesleyan Methodist Church was full and complete, for he identified himself with them in every way. But while he was a man of deep convictions, he was also exceedingly tolerant of the other man's viewpoint and one of the rare virtues in Brother Teter was his ability to hold himself rigidly to his own convictions of truth and yet keep the tender spirit toward those who might differ from him.

He was a man of sterling fidelity and deep sincerity. He was no rover. He did not play fast and loose with duty. He was an earnest man in setting forth the truth. He joined himself to it with a firmness invincible. He could never be a sham any more than he could bear a sham. Reality was one of the demands of his nature. He had no hiding place even for his own faults. He was self-forgetful and lived for his family, his church, and his Christ. Though he was a man of unusual insight and wisdom yet he depended much upon that "wisdom that cometh down from above." Loyal and devoted to his friends, his family, and his children, he was equally loyal and devoted to the church and to God. What a rugged constitution he possessed! and it is well it was so, for he spent freely of that physical strength in his travels all over the Connection and in conserving the interests thereof, financial and otherwise; and yet though strong in body, he had a spirit that sympathized with human life in every stage and experience, and he was able to make the sorrows and struggles of others, less fortunate than himself, to become his own, and his consolations were swiftly offered to those who needed them.

"Upon the top of the pillars was lily work" is a statement of Scripture that reminds us so much of Brother Teter. Pillars representing power and strength, and on the top of it all the beauty of the lily work—such was his life. He had a keen appreciation of everything natural no matter how homely or insignificant, if it grew out of a legitimate germ he would give it due value. He was truly one of God's heroes.

"It is not death to fling aside this sinful dust
And rise on strong exalted wing to live among the just."

What a strong defense he made for the doctrines of entire sanctification! How clearly he has placed that important doctrine before the church in its periodicals, and who can ever forget some of the sermons on the doctrine of Holiness as preached by this man at our annual gatherings! He heartily believed that one of the great efforts of the church should be to spread "Scriptural Holiness over this land." It would be a great blessing to oncoming generations if some of his strong, trenchent articles on the baptism of the Holy Spirit with cleansing could be gathered together and placed in permanent form. He died as he lived, at peace with God and men, and as we looked on his face at the funeral there was that sweet, calm expression that has always characterized his rugged, beautiful spirit, and we felt that one of God's heroes had been called home.

"Out of the chill and shadow into the thrill and the shine,
Out of the dearth and the famine into the fullness Divine,
Out of the sighs and the silence into the deep swelling song,
Out of the exile and bondage into the home gathered throng."

To him Heaven has become a reality,

but always there was a courage joined and the object of his longings. Heaven is no longer an aim it is a place in which he lives, and by virtue of this fact our hearts are turned thither with a stronger appreciation of its value.

"As distant lands beyond the sea when friends go hence draw nigh,
So even when friends have gone Heaven draws nearer from the sky;
And as those lands the dearer grow when friends are long away
So Heaven itself through loved ones dead grows dearer day by day."

Heaven will be the clearing up of life's mysteries. It will be the assignment of opportunity, and it will be the carrying over of all that was most real and spiritual in our work and interests here. Things do not stop at the grave, and the spirit of our Brother Teter still lives. It lives in the influences that he has set in operation, it lives in the lives that he has touched and blessed, it lives in the homes that he has blessed with his benediction, it lives in the hearts of those who have been cheered by his handshake. Here is one man we shall never forget. He has been a great blessing to our lives.

"Servant of God, well done,
Thy glorious warfare past,
The battle's fought, the race is won,
And thou art crowned at last."

J. S. Willett.

Brother E. Teter As a Member of the Book Committee and Connectional Official As I Knew Him.

In association with Brother Teter as a member of the Connectional Boards, it is a pleasure to remember his unfailing courtesy to his brethren and loyalty to the cause of Christ.

He was a man of deep and positive convictions, but in saying that it must also be stated that he always exhibited the greatest consideration for the opinions and feelings of his brethren. This trait made it easy to work with him even when there seemed to be a decided difference in the view which he held from those he labored with. His cheerfulness on all occasions was a source of inspiration and his hearty laugh and keen sense of humor helped him and the brethren he was working with, out of many difficult problems. Brother Teter was a tender-hearted and sympathetic man and often times, at great sacrifice to himself, helped us out when he was not always appreciated.

For the Church of his choice and the Christ whom he loved, no service was too hard or task too heavy. He often carried financial burdens for the various corporations of the Church which must have meant more than can be expressed in words, yet very few people knew of them. With his financial assistance there were several serious crises averted in the various corporations of the Church. He never boasted of the great things he did for the Church. Our Father who keeps the records will amply reward him for all his labor of love. His counsel to the Book Committee and his official brethren was always wholesome and his memory will live on and on.

His work as Missionary Secretary for both Foreign and Home work was his greatest concern, although he took a keen and intelligent interest in every activity of his church. He was much concerned in our educational work and urged that all our schools hold to the old land marks of Christian Fundamentals and to raise high the banner of "Holiness unto the Lord." He often urged the Board to keep all our schools within their financial income; in fact he was solicitous that every activity of the Church while aggressive be operated on a safe financial basis, where God could honor us with his blessings.

The last time I visited him in his home he was very feeble, yet keenly interested in every activity of the Church he so greatly loved and labored in so many years. Personally I feel a great loss but rejoice that his labors are ended and he has entered into the rest which the Lord promised to all who love Him in truth.

In saying farewell to him may each one of us close ranks and carry on till some day if faithful, we too shall meet him again and together enjoy the blessings of eternal life.

E. G. Dietrich,
Committee for Executive Board.

Rev. E. Teter, Member of the Book Committee.

My first and most intimate acquaintance with Brother Teter was as a member of the Book Committee. While serving as pastor of Fyler charge in the early nineties, I came to the Publishing House one morning in the month of June at the time of the annual Board meeting, and for the first time met Brother Teter who was then just entering on his work as a member of the Book Committee.

I was not a member of the Book Committee at this time but my pastorates were near Syracuse, so that from that time I met him each year at the time of the annual Board meeting. I became a member of the Board in 1903 and from that time until by reason of age he gave up his work as Missionary Secretary and a member of the Book Committee our relations were intimate, and very pleasant.

As a member of the Book Committee, with his grasp of the various phases of Connectional work, and his intimate knowledge of the various parts of the Connection and the needs of the work, I think his opinion was relied on perhaps more than any one member of the Book Committee.

Precious are my memories of Brother Teter, and of his work.

E. D. Carpenter,
President General Conference.

Rev. Eber Teter As I Knew Him.

Many years of close association with him in General and Annual Conferences and in the Commission on Union of the Wesleyan and Free Methodist Churches have proved him to be a superior executive officer, a wise counselor, an aimable companion, and a devoted Christian. While he was a man of inflexible character, with convictions which did not change, except upon a basis of a clearer vision of righteousness, yet he was as gentle as a good mother with her little child. He had a peculiar geniality like that of Abraham Lincoln who could meet objections, and make his point in debate with an apt and forceful illustrative story which generally "carried the day." His was a master mind in parliamentary law. We were associated with him in the interim between two General Conference sessions in the differentiation between constitutional and statutory law as now found in our Book of Discipline, which gave opportunity of seeing his marked ability in such work. In fact a large part of our Book of Discipline bears his impress of clear expressional statement. To know Eber Teter intimately was to know the doctrines, polity, and spirit of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America as it is when correctly represented. Truly "There is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel." Yet this fall is not governed so much by earth's law of gravitation as that of heaven. We look forward to meeting him soon in the white-robed company which John saw.

P. B. Campbell.

Memories of Rev. E. Teter.

My acquaintance with Rev. Eber Teter has extended through the period of my natural lifetime. Being born and reared a few miles from the Teter Homestead, and hearing him preach, and remembering his religious visits to our home, back as far as I can remember, my acquaintance with him has been long and a pleasant, happy one.

He was president of the Indiana Conference when the writer was admitted to the Indiana Conference, to travel under its directions thirty-seven years ago, and it was from him the writer received his first helpful instruction as a pastor. I received my ordination at his hands and through all the years of my ministry I have valued his Godly counsel and wise instruction more than I can express in words.

Rev. E. Teter As Foreign Missionary Secretary.

If a successful administrator of missionary activities is one who produces results that stand the test through the years, then Brother Teter was an administrator of high grade. "If thou seek his monument, look about thee," is the inscription in St. Paul's Cathedral to Sir Christopher Wren, the architect who built it. Thus might we speak of the services of our brother in promoting the foreign work.

When Brother Teter was elected secretary of foreign missions, the program was small and confined to one field—Africa. Slowly through the years the department increased its activities in Africa, and took over a field that had been opened in India. As his term of service closed, plans were developing to begin work in Japan.

In the growth and development of this department of our church work, we realize that no one man was alone responsible for its success, neither would it be proper to give all the praise to one. As the atolls of the Pacific have been built up from the wrecked peaks beneath the surface of the water, and at last came to life and beauty beneath the sky because of the life and death of myriads of coral insects down below, so it has been the sacrificial service of scores of workers, together with the prayers and gifts of thousands of servants of the Lord that has made possible this splendid growth of the foreign work. There have been scores of Pauls who did the planting, and thousands of Apolloses who did the watering, but in the planting and in the watering, perhaps there was no one

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Rev. E. Teter As Foreign Missionary Secretary.

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person more used of God than Father Teter.

In estimating Brother Teter's success, as Secretary of Foreign Missions, the elements in his character that were contributory to it are not hard to find. Prominently among these elements was his consecration to the task to which he was called. "This one thing I do" might have been his motto. As a man of faith or prayer, he faced the difficulties of his office with a courage born of the Holy Spirit. Often the treasury was low or empty, and important bills had to be met promptly. The force of workers was sometimes small because of sickness or death. And yet, he met these situations bravely and wisely. He was a man with unusual mental powers, and these were turned over to the Master to be used in the service of the church.

While he was not treasurer of the Foreign Department during his administration, yet he was largely responsible for awakening the interest in this work and securing funds to finance it. He practised careful economy in all these activities, and did not create a deficit, although a vision of the needs over there would have led him to plan a much larger program than he did.

He was greatly beloved by the staff of foreign workers, because of his kind, sympathetic, fatherly disposition. The native Christians in Africa and India came to know him and love him as a spiritual father. Many will rise up in that day to call him blessed, because in helping to carry out the great Commission given by the Master to the church, he was a human instrument in throwing the life line of salvation to them in their heathen blindness and superstition.

E. F. McCarty,
Foreign Missionary Secretary.